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Weekly Situation Report on International Terrorism

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20 August 1980

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WEEKLY SITUATION REPORT

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Strange Deaths of Montonero Terrorists

Argentine, Spanish, and other foreign press services have been publicizing the death in Madrid under uncertain circumstances of Argentine citizen Noemi Esther Gianotti de Molfino on 20 July. Press accounts vary as to the actual cause of death--one describes death by natural causes while another refers to an assassination by Gianotti's two Argentine companions, one identified as Julio Cesar Ramirez. According to Spanish police, the woman had entered Spain on an Argentine passport issued in the name of Maria del Carmen Sainz and had resided in a Madrid apartment which had been rented by Ramirez and where her partially dressed body was discovered on 23 July. [redacted] 3.5(c)

Newspaper reports identify Gianotti as one of four Argentines, including Ramirez, who were arrested and deported from Peru to Bolivia in June 1980 for being alleged Montoneros (Peronist Montonero Movement) and for having entered Peru illegally. Other reports say that the alleged Montoneros were kidnaped in Lima by Argentine military forces aided by Peruvian authorities. Still other published articles claim that the Argentines were tortured in Peru and that, in fact, Gianotti and two others had died as a result of the tortures. The confusing information presents an unclear picture as to the actual events concerning the death and travels of Gianotti. Undoubtedly, conflicting information and speculation will continue concerning this "international" incident. [redacted] 3.5(c)

3.3(b)(1) [redacted] on 12 June 1980 Peruvian and Argentine security personnel arrested three Argentine subversives, including Julio Cesar Ramirez and Noemi Esther Godoy de Molfino, in Lima, Peru. The three subversives had entered Peru with alias Argentine passports.

3.3(b)(1) Godoy's alias passport was in the name of Maria del Carmen Salcedo. [redacted]

[redacted] cations base in Lima, probably for the support of unidentified subversives in Argentina. As previously arranged between the security services, the Argentine suspects were to be transported to the Peruvian city of Desaguadero on the Bolivian

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border, where they would then be transferred to Bolivian authorities. The plan included the immediate transfer of the subversives from Bolivian to Argentine authorities, who would take custody of the trio on the Bolivian side of the border. This incident has received extensive media coverage with Peruvian security authorities being publicly condemned and criticized for their involvement with the Argentine security services. It is known that in late July Peruvian intelligence officials were engaged in an all-out effort to prove that the three suspected Argentine subversives were indeed transferred to Bolivian authorities in Desaguadero on 17 June. 3.5(c)

One Peruvian leftist weekly newspaper alleged that a fourth Argentine, Federico Frias, was detained on 11 June by Argentine security service personnel operating in Peru. The newspaper also claimed that a fifth Argentine subversive was being sought by Peruvian and Argentine authorities. The Peruvian Government, however, has mentioned publicly that only three Argentines were detained and deported from their country. 3.5(c)

In an unrelated incident, according to press reports, on 3 August two Montoneros committed suicide in Puerto Iguazu, Argentina, on a boat which docked in that port city near Brazil. The two Montoneros were identified as Liliana Ines Goldemberg and Eduardo Gonzalo Escabosa, both Argentine citizens. An Argentine Army communique states that the couple had disembarked from the boat but apparently panicked when they noticed armed forces personnel controlling the immigration post. Both returned to the boat and immediately swallowed a poisonous substance which killed them instantly. Additionally, the communique describes Goldemberg as a Montonero who in 1979 was in charge of Casa Argentina in Madrid but had recently been operating in Buenos Aires. Among the personal effects seized from the couple were false identification documents, directives for sabotage and terrorist actions and manuals for preparation of explosives. Allegations were made that the couple carried instructions to receive coded messages through Radio Noticias del Continente which transmits from Costa Rica. 3.5(c)

Radio Noticias operates on the shortwave band and has transmitted critical reporting about the military governments of the southern zone countries. It was granted an operating

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license in early August 1979. During March 1980 a small bomb exploded in the San Jose offices of Radio Noticias del Continente causing minor property damage. Costa Rican authorities were not convinced that the bombing incident was a genuine act of terrorism, since during a 1 January attack on the station's radio transmitter installation it had been widely speculated that the station itself was responsible. Costa Rican officials later learned that the radio station had actually executed a fake commando-style attack against its own transmitter site with the intent of generating publicity favorable to the station but critical of conservative opposition to the station's continued operation in Costa Rica. During the 1 January attack the radio station became the focus of unofficial diplomatic protests by the southern zone governments of South America which were targets of critical editorial and news commentaries. 3.5(c)

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